

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-53. (Canceled).

54. (New) A mask system for treating sleep disordered breathing, comprising:
a shell having at least one portion including decoupling structure;
a cushion provided to the shell to form a seal with the patient; and
a conduit portion having a first end provided to the shell and being associated with the decoupling structure of the shell, and a second end adapted to engage an air delivery conduit, whereby any movement of the air delivery conduit creating drag forces applied to the conduit portion can be decoupled from the cushion so as to avoid disruption of the seal.

55. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, wherein the conduit comprises an elbow.

56. (New) The mask system according to claim 55, wherein the elbow includes an approximately 90° bend between the first and second ends thereof.

57. (New) The mask system according to claim 56, wherein the elbow is a swivel elbow.

58. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, wherein the decoupling structure comprises a flexible portion provided to the shell.

59. (New) The mask system according to claim 58, wherein the flexible portion includes a bellows portion for a flexible neck adjacent the aperture of the shell where the conduit portion interfaces with the shell.

60. (New) The mask system according to claim 58, wherein the flexible portion includes a flexible material formed as part of the shell.

61. (New) The mask system according to claim 60, wherein the shell is made entirely of said flexible material.

62. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, further comprising a plurality of vent orifices provided to the conduit.

63. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, further comprising one or more reinforcing ribs provided to the shell in a region surrounding an aperture of the shell where the conduit portion is provided.

64. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, further comprising a frame to support the shell.

65. (New) The mask system according to claim 64, wherein the frame is made of a relatively hard material compared to the shell.

66. (New) The mask system according to claim 64, wherein the frame includes one or more headgear connection points.